

P a t e n t C l a i m s

1.

5 A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments (21) gathered into a plurality of strands (20) in which the filaments (21) run close together, around which strands (5) there is provided a protective sheath (16), characterized in that each strand (20) is coated on the exterior thereof with a sheath (22) of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands (20) to move longitudinally in relation
10 to one another and independently of each other.

2.

15 The tension member according to claim 1, characterized in that the sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.

3.

20 The tension member according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that between at least some of the strands (20) and the protective sheath (29) there are provided spacing elements (25, 30) having recesses (26), which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands (20).

4.

25 The tension member according to claim 3, characterized in that the spacing elements (25, 30) are equipped with complementary locking elements (27, 28) on their adjoining surfaces.

5.

30 The tension member according to one of the claims 3 – 4, characterized in that the spacing elements (25, 30) define an inner cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands (20).

6.

The tension member according to one of the claims 3 – 5, characterized in that at least one of the spacing elements (30) comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

5

7.

The tension member according to one of the claims 3 – 6, characterized in that the spacing elements (25) consist of PVC.

10 8.

The tension member according to one of the claims 3 – 6, characterized in that the spacing elements (25) consist of a material having buoyancy in water.

9.

15 The tension member according to one of the claims 1 – 8, characterized in that the filaments (21) are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the strands (20) are to be coiled.

10.

20 The tension member according to one of the claims 1 – 9, characterized in that the strands (20) are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member (20) is to be coiled.

25